

**PARKS AND RECREATION ACTION PLAN**

**INTENT**

A Township-wide system of well-maintained parks, recreation facilities and public open space that meet a variety of the active and passive recreational needs of Township citizens of all ages is an important service the Township provides to its residents. These parks and open space areas preserve trees and green areas that make the Township more attractive to those who live here, those who visit and those who wish to invest in the Township.

*Goal: Maintain a wide variety of safe and adequate recreation facilities and programs that meet the varying needs of all Township residents.*

**PARKS AND RECREATION POLICIES**

1. Continue to develop active and passive recreation facilities at Township parks.
2. Encourage efforts to establish a Township park, or other recreation facilities, in the southern half of the Township, if cost and expected use are feasible.
3. Encourage developers to provide open space and/ or neighborhood parks to serve future residential subdivisions.
4. Promote the development of a Township-wide greenway and/ or bicycle/ pedestrian trail or path system, which could include adequately sized shoulders along Township roads for pedestrian and bicycle use.
5. Encourage joint efforts between various public agencies and private organizations which can result in the provision of additional parks, open space, pathways or recreation facilities.
6. Encourage preservation and retention of natural areas along the Conodoguinet Creek and LeTort Spring Run by promoting recreational uses that are compatible with these undeveloped areas.

**ACTION STRATEGIES**

**Provide Adequate Facilities to Meet the Recreation Needs of the Township Residents**

1. Maintain an inventory of existing private sector and other jurisdictional parkland and facilities for use in future park analysis.
2. Develop handicapped "friendly" facilities.
3. Provide a diversification of facilities consistent with available resources.

4. Monitor or the status of the development of recreation facilities at Township parks. (H/ T/ ongoing)<sup>1</sup>
5. Consider acquiring land for a park, or recreational facilities, on the south side of Route 11, if determined to be feasible.
6. Periodically evaluate the needs of playing fields in cooperation with local youth sports organizations.

**Greenways/Linear Parks**

7. Consider creating a Greenways/ Trails Committee to oversee the development of a Greenways and Trails Plan for the Township.
8. Encourage establishing greenways and/ or linear parks along the Conodoguinet Creek and LeTort Spring Run.
9. Contact a local land trust, such as the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy or the Appalachian Audobon Society, to investigate alternative means of park, greenway, and bicycle/ pedestrian trail acquisition.
10. Consider the construction of bicycle trails within the public right-of-way as development occurs and/ or as roadways are upgraded, and encourage linkages of these trails with established trails.
11. Include in planning for the trails and greenways system and working with the various public and private groups that all floodways, existing utility and conservation easements, abandoned railroad beds, and other appropriate sites as potential trail and/ or greenway segments.

**Funding of Parks and Recreation Facilities**

12. Review and amend, as necessary, the Township's policies regarding developers' dedication or fee-in-lieu of provisions for recreation and open space amenities.
13. Utilize private organizations and businesses to supplement limited public funding for Township recreational facilities and programs.
14. Solicit funding from appropriate governmental agencies for the purpose of acquisition, development, renovation, and maintenance of Township parks, trails, open space, and recreational facilities and site.